Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: They are not extra-ordinarily costly.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. നാരായണമേനോൻ: സ്ഥലസൌകര്യമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടല്ല, നഗ്നമായ അശ്രദ്ധകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെ പെട്ടിയുടെ ഉള്ളിലും മറ്റും പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും വെച്ചതു് എന്നാണ് പറയുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള അശ്രദ്ധക്ക് വല്ല ശിക്ഷയും കൊടുക്കാറുണ്ടോ എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: It sometimes happens that one paper which ought to be placed in one place is misplaced. In a heavy Office it is not necessary to punish for everything that a man does.

SURVEY NUMBERS 727 AND 1267 IN CHOONDAL VILLAGE—GRANT OF SITE TO PRESENT OCCUPANTS

328. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Diwan Peishkar has enquired that the sites in survey numbers 727 and 1267 of Choondal village, Talappilli Taluk were not informally handed over by the Revenue Authorities to its present occupants as homesteads granted as Silver Jubilee sites in continuation to answers for question-No. 44 of last Vrischigam meeting;

(*b*) if so, will he be pleased to pass formal orders granting the site to the present poor occupants?

Mr. Madava Prabhu *(Diwan Peihskar)*:

(*a*) The matter is still under enquiry.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of answer to question (*a*).

QUALITY OF JAGGERY

329. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the very bad quality of jaggery (ശർക്കര) has been brought to their notice;

(*b*) whether they have come across leading articles in many local papers about this;

(*c*) what steps, if any, have been taken in this matter?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) & (*b*) Yes; there were articles about this in some of the local papers.

(*c*) The jaggery that Government purchase is generally of good quality. But sometimes it so happens that some inferior quality also is imported. The jaggery purchase Officer has been instructed to be very careful about selection of quality. Also, representations have been made to the authorities in British India. As a result of these, it has now become possible to import jaggery of very good quality.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know whether this inferior quality of jaggery was purchased by our purchase officers directly?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Some were purchased by the officers directly and the rest by some of the merchants. Some of the British merchants were given permits by the Government. These merchants were asked to sell that quantity to us. Those purchases were made here. The quantity which had not been imported was purchased by an officer deputed from here.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Was not the practice before for the Madras Government to purchase this quota?

Roa Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes. It was going on. But suddenly without notice to us for same reason or other, the Madras Government adopted a different course. The Madras Government said that it was not possible for them to arrange for the purchase as before. So we had to send an officer.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Is it the practice, or is there any rule that before these articles are purchased samples should be forwarded to the Government?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes. Samples should be forwarded. It is only after examining the sample that they were purchased.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Am I to take it that this condemned jaggery was the best in the Madras Market?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know on what the observation is based that it was the best available article in the market?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: It was based on the information given by our State officer.

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